



State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Howard Forest Training Burn		
PROJECT LOCATION	CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit Headquarters Address: 17501 North Highway 101, Willits, CA 95490 Legal Description: Sections 4, 5, 8 & 9; T17N, R13W; MDB & M		COUNTY Mendocino
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
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ADDRESS	CAL FIRE 802 N. Main St. Ft. Bragg, CA 95437	PHONE	(Office) 707-391-6750 (Cellular)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project consists of a prescribed burn of approximately 65 acres of vegetative surface fuels, including grass, shrubs & understory duff, for training and wildfire control purposes. The burn will take place on CAL FIRE property at Howard Forest. The project includes burning grass areas to control the spread of yellow star thistle. Project activity includes establishing perimeter & interior fire control lines utilizing hand tools to blade to bare mineral soil in duff & establishing wet line in the grass. Existing seasonal & permanent roads will also be utilized for segments of control line. Firing of these units will be conducted in a manner that allows firefighter trainees to utilize direct attack wildland firefighting techniques. Burning will be conducted on permissive burn day as determined by the local Air District.

The use of standard prescribed burn techniques to ignite burn units, the establishment of fire control lines and the presence of trained personnel & equipment on site during project implementation will minimize the potential for fire escape.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4; 15304 Minor Alterations to Land
☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

The proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment. The California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) was searched and no rare, threatened or endangered plant or animal species were identified that will be negatively impacted by this project. The CAL FIRE Area Archaeologist has been consulted and has determined that this project is exempt from further archaeological review.

Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit, Resource Management, 17501 N. Highway 101, Willits, CA 95490, Attn. Environmental Coordinator.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

RECEIVED

DEC 09 2013

STATE CLEARING HOUSE

Duane Shintaku 12/9/13
Duane Shintaku, Deputy Director Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection